

REMARKS

This Reply is believed to be fully responsive to the final Office Action mailed on March 18, 2008. By the present amendments claims 287-300 and 302 -340 are retained and claim 301 is cancelled to expedite prosecution.

The new claims and the terminal disclaimers provided herewith should place this case in condition for allowance.

Turning now to the Office Action claim 301 was rejected under 35 USC 112 first paragraph. The basis was that the specification allegedly did not support claims directed to expression of a functional T1R receptor in bacteria. While the position of the Examiner is respectfully traversed, in order to expedite prosecution this claim has been cancelled to expedite prosecution.

Claims 287-298, 300, 302, 303, 305, 307, 308, 310, 311, 314, 315, 317, 319, 320, 324, 325, 327, 328, and 331-340 were further rejected under 35 USC 101 as allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter. The Examiner took the position that the claims as written read on the mere detection of sweet tastants in vivo which is a normal biological process. It is anticipated that this rejection is now moot based on the amendment of claim 287 herein to recite that the screening method is in vitro. Withdrawal of this rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

In addition, all of the pending claims were rejected based on double patenting grounds. Particularly, claims 287-337 stand rejected based on claims 1-76 of commonly assigned, US Patent No. 6,955,887 and stand provisionally rejected over claims 272-306 of US Serial No. 10/725,284.

In order to expedite grant Applicants submit herewith Terminal Disclaimers terminally disclaiming the '887 patent and the above-identified co-pending commonly assigned patent application.

Withdrawal of the double patenting rejection of the claims is therefore respectfully requested.

As these were the only rejections, this Amendment Reply and Terminal Disclaimers should place this case in condition for allowance.

Based on the foregoing, a Notice to that effect is respectfully solicited. Reconsideration and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested. However, if any issues remain after consideration of this Amendment, Examiner Ulm is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone (703-714-7645) so that these issues can be resolved by Examiner's Amendment or a Supplemental Response.

Applicants believe that no fee is due with the filing of this Amendment. However, in the event that the calculations of the Office differ, Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge or credit any such variance or credit any overpayment to the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-0206.

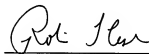
Respectfully submitted,

HUNTON & WILLIAMS LLP

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Hunton & Williams LLP
1900 K Street, N.W.
Suite 1200
Washington, D.C. 20006-1109
Phone: (202) 955-1500
Fax: (202) 778-2201

RLT/dkt



Robin L. Teskin
Reg. No. 35,030